



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
COMMUNITY PARTNERS
1000 NORTH ALAMEDA STREET, SECOND FLOOR
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
<http://lachildrenscommission.org>**

Monday, October 20, 2014

10:00 AM

1. Call to Order. (14-4723)

The meeting was called to order at 10:18 a.m.

Present: Commissioner Candace Cooper, Commissioner Patricia Curry, Commissioner Dr. Sunny Kang, Commissioner Helen Kleinberg, Commissioner Liz Seipel, Commissioner Martha Trevino-Powell, Vice Chair Sydney Kamlager, Vice Chair Carol O. Biondi and Chair Susan F. Friedman

Absent: Commissioner Genevra Berger, Commissioner Ann E. Franzen, Commissioner Adrienne Konigar-Macklin, Commissioner Steven M. Olivas Esq. and Commissioner Adelina Sorkin LCSW/ACSW

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

2. WHAT DO WE WANT AND WHEN DO WE WANT IT
Welcome and Opening Remarks for the meeting of October 20, 2014 by Susan Friedman, Chair. (14-4719)

Chair Susan F. Friedman welcomed the commissioners on its annual retreat.

II. REPORTS

3. Update on Court Mediation from Commissioner Candice Cooper and Chair Susan Friedman. (14-4721)

By Common Consent, there being no objection (Commissioners Berger, Franzen, Olivas, and Sorkin being absent), this item was taken off calendar.

III. DISCUSSIONS

4. Discussion on future meetings, outside of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration. (14-4720)

Chair Friedman introduced the topic of planning Commission for Children and Families (Commission) meetings outside of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration (Hall), with the goal of having one meeting in each Supervisorial District between July 2014 and June 2015. Chair Friedman suggested starting with the Antelope Valley area.

Commissioners expressed that they are not opposed to having meetings outside of the Hall, but would have meetings in the locations centrally located from Lancaster to Palmdale. After further discussion, by consensus, that prior to meetings being scheduled outside of the Hall, the Commissioners will be notified at least three weeks in advance by the Chair, and/or staff on the Commissioners' availability.

Commissioner Kleinberg suggested that Board Deputies be consulted on off-site meeting locations, and that three meetings be held in the 2nd, 4th, 5th districts (excluding 1st and 3rd since we have been there this year); the focal points of the meetings should be on the Commission's priorities.

Chair Friedman further informed the Commissioners that the Oath of Office Ceremonies for the newly Elected First and Third District Supervisors will be held on December 1, 2014. Sylvia Drew Ivie, Executive Liaison, informed the Commission that the Oath of Office for the newly elected Supervisors must be administered prior to 12:00 noon on December 1, 2014.

Commissioners expressed an interest in attending the ceremonies, and on motion of Commissioner Kleinberg, seconded by Commissioner Kang, duly carried by the following vote, the Commission rescheduled the December 1, 2014 meeting to Monday, December 8, 2014 at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, Room 739 at 10:00 a.m. and requested Ms. Ivie to inform them on the times for each Ceremony.

Ayes: 9 - Commissioner Candace Cooper, Commissioner Patricia Curry, Commissioner Dr. Sunny Kang, Commissioner Helen Kleinberg, Commissioner Liz Seipel, Commissioner Martha Trevino-Powell, Vice Chair Sydney Kamlager, Vice Chair Carol O. Biondi and Chair Susan F. Friedman

Absent: 5 - Commissioner Geneva Berger, Commissioner Ann E. Franzen, Commissioner Adrienne Konigar-Macklin, Commissioner Steven M. Olivas Esq. and Commissioner Adelina Sorkin
LCSW/ACSW

5. Discussion on Committee's assignments. (14-4245)

Commissioner Kleinberg suggested that reports be given on work done by Commissioners at each meeting, so that everyone stays informed of Commission activities. These reports should be noted in the minutes. There are many changes within the County of Los Angeles' Organization with incoming elected officials, Court Judge and Supervisors; including new hires, Chief Executive Officer, Director of Public Health; and a new Office of Child Protection. The Commission for Children and Families (Commission) must always reflect their values to the County of Los Angeles.

Commissioners were invited to share their ideas and areas of interest in a roundtable discussion:

Vice Chair Kamlager, District Director for the 54th Assembly District under State Senator Holly Mitchell, noted first that building a good relationship with the new Court Judge will be critical. She also expressed interest in Mental Health issues and connecting Social Workers to visiting families. The Commission needs to assist families in obtaining psychiatric support, if needed. As a Commission, the goal is to unify families and have a tracking mechanism on what happens after unification. There is a need to increase the number of foster parents, and ensure there are jobs and college access for Transitional Age Youth (TAY). The Commission would need to follow up on questions such as, "What are County Departments doing today to help with jobs for TAY?" For example, the October 6, 2014 presentation from the Los Angeles Opportunity Youth Collaborative, provided a model that works to address TAY. Vice Chair Kamlager suggested that in the future, presenters be prepared to have an "ask" approach, which will be helpful for the Commission to determine if they can assist the Department/organization. Currently, the Commission receives

many presentations with an abundance of information, but what can the Commission do with the information provided? What needs to be done?

Commissioner Trevino-Powell's interests are in Mental Health and Probation issues, and posed the question "If children have jobs, how can the Commission assist these youths to be productive?" Commissioner Trevino-Powell would like to receive feedback after each presentation from the Commissioners on "what we have learned today" and "what have I heard " refocusing on the issues presented and what the commission can or cannot do.

Commissioner Kleinberg shared her interest in Family visitation issues. There are a variety of programs that focus on visitation, but they are not being monitored or promoted appropriately. There should be more work, not only on the children's issues, but the parent's issues as well. There is a need to work on problems through the families. This can be applied to the visitation programs within the Department of Children and Families Services (DCFS) and Probation Department, and at the same time develop a prevention aspect for the communities. There is a need for additional locations for visitation to take place, and more support for aftercare programs.

Commissioner Kang offered his perspective that the main responsibility of the Commission is to make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) pertaining to the decisions that affect children and families. The Commission should align its activities and Policies and Procedures to that goal. Without that focus, it is sometimes confusing to understand why the Commission is involved in certain areas and what the Commission is trying to accomplish. Beyond that concern, Commissioner Kang suggested that Commission can greatly help the children and families by involving the communities and utilizing more often the faith-based communities. Such entities can encourage families to participate in foster care; they can expand their activities to include youth clubs, then invite participation of foster children in more normal systems. The County Child Welfare System cannot ever have enough money or resources to solve all the problems, but children and families should be considered a community problem, not just governmental, and the Commission will need to work on better communication as a whole with the community.

Commissioner Cooper concurred with Commissioner Kang on being confused about the Commission's mission and the purview of its work. The parameters are also unclear on the uses of the information presented to the Commission in bi-monthly meetings. The Commission is not a delivery mechanism. The Commission is not a funding mechanism, nor is it an auditor. With those limitations, what can the Commission do with the information? Retrospectively, the Commission has made many recommendations, and at this time, perhaps the Commission should revisit the recommendations and where there is still a need for that particular recommendation, establish short-term projects. The Commission should determine which recommendations are viable but have not been addressed, and then edit and present that list before the Commission as a whole. In listening to the Commissioners in this roundtable discussion, everyone has individual interests. The presenters who come before the Commission should perhaps be a little more direct and define what their needs are and be aware of the Commission's purview. The overall goal for the Commission is the well-being of the children than the adults, with the adults primarily as they relate to children. The Commission needs to get the biggest bang for the buck from what the Commission does. "What do we need to do to become more efficient?" "How do we assure that we get the right information to the right target so that it can be picked up and done?" Commissioner Cooper shared that her own interests include: foster-care placement expansion, TAY, and sex trafficking. Education needs to be provided in foster and group homes. The children should not be criminalized or victimized because they have hyper-sexualized lives. The Commission needs to better prioritize the issues addressed.

Vice Chair Biondi shared that in her view the Commission needs to say what it has accomplished, be more nimble, and monitor and support what the Transition Team for the Office of Child Protection (TTOCP) is doing. Additionally, Vice Chair Biondi recommended having a youth member attend the Commission's meetings and recommended Charity Chandler from Loyola Marymount University. Ms. Chandler is active in the Anti-recidivism Council Board.

Over the past 15 years, Vice Chair Biondi has been involved with the Commission, with State Juvenile Justice Appointments and education task forces. Her interests include cross-over youth, and involvement efforts culminating in a construction of a new building to accommodate 120 probationers. The construction will encompass five separate buildings, with only 12 youth in one dorm on the Camp Kilpatrick site, which is estimated to be \$54 million. This will be the national model for a program and education driven model.

Commissioner Seipel informed the Commission that she was formerly on the Council of State Mental Health Services Act and is very interested in the Early Intervention/Prevention Program with emphasis on the 0-5 population and the TAY Group. Commissioner Seipel also believes the Commission needs to better understand the working relation between the Mental Health Department, DCFS, and Department of Health Services work together regarding the health of the Children and the Full Service Family Partnership Program. Commissioner Seipel is concern about re- unification issues, and the damage that is done to children because of detention. Commissioner Seipel has connections with various departments from her work with Child and Family Center, which she founded in 1976 with two other women. She retired in 2008 just as the wrap-around service program was beginning.

Commissioner Curry expressed the need to review prior recommendations, and noted that things are being done differently today from the standpoint of technology and research. Commissioner Curry posed questions such as "How will the Children's Commission interact with the Office of Child Protection?" "Will we need to have scheduled reports from other departments as we now do from DCFS?" "Should they come to us once a quarter?" "How should we go about the task of connecting people in departments to community agencies?" For example, the Commission has connected DCFS with Imagine LA to help young women transitioning out of child welfare. The Commission is helping these young women in getting Section 8 vouchers, and support from Imagine LA on life skills for two years. The Commission's role is just facilitating these connections through Harvery Kawasaki and Helen Berberian, DCFS respectively. Similarly, a year and a half ago, a small group of private funders came together with Director Philip Browning, Chief Deputy Fesia Davenport and Helen Berberian, DCFS, to ask how they could help? The needs identified included finding more foster beds, diapers, and clothes. The Commission connected DCFS and Foster Homes to Shelter Partnerships, which gives away these items in bulk. The funders group agreed to solicit and pay for a study of obstacles to finding more foster care beds. The report by Todd Frankie at UCLA should be done in February 2015. On TAY issue, the Commission commissioned a task force co-chaired by Emily Stevens. The ILP Budget and Resource Committee is a positive collaborative activity of the Commission. The Commission should have a representative at the Youth Opportunity meetings once a month. The Commission can be useful in letting people know what is going on in

communities. For example, Sil Orlando is using telemedicine in the Optimist Home to provide mental health services for kids and to facilitate their talks with mental health workers.

Chair Friedman added that Nick Ippolito suggested the Commission rethink dual certification, which may be a barrier to more foster bed recruitment. The Chair expressed her enthusiasm of the Commission's input and interests and is animated that all of the information will be incorporated in the Commission's agenda for 2014-15.

After discussion, by Common Consent, there being no objection (Commissioners Berger, Franzen, Konigar-Macklin, Olivas, and Sorkin being absent), the Commission recessed for 10 minutes at 12:30 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 12:40 p.m. to begin discussion on Agenda Item No. 6 - Discussion on new initiatives.

6. Discussion on new initiatives. (14-4722)

Chair Friedman introduce the topic on new initiatives by focusing on two things: (1) are there specific issues to commit or work on; or (2) the Commission going to have subcommittees by either joining to an already placed adhoc committee, create a new workgroup or legislative committee, and took the opportunity to reiterate what was discuss on Agenda Item No. 5:

- How to best use the information provided by the presenters and the suggestion to have presenters approach the commission with an "ask" what the presenters want, which will help the Commission on how to be helpful.
- What did the Commission learned at the end of the meeting, discuss on what to do with the information
- Visitation issues: parent involvement, programs not being utilized appropriately, and prevention
- Enhance faith-based communities
- Foster Care involvement, Transitional Age Youth, Sex Trafficking
- Support Transition Team for the Office of Child Protection (TTOCP)
- Wraparound Services and Mental Health involvement
- How people can assist in facilitating in advocacy between agencies, family and departments

Based on the roundtable discussion under Agenda Item No. 5, the commission determined that the following points of interest for 2014-15

will incorporate the ideas and suggestions of the Commissioners:

- 1. Community Agency Partnership, including family visitation and faith-based centers**
- 2. Mental Health**
- 3. Increase Foster Families and Care**
- 4. TAY, including sex trafficking**

Furthermore, discussion ensued on the protocol when a Commissioner will be reporting to the Commission. The Commissioner would inform the Chair and Sylvia Drew Ivie, Executive Liaison, on the Tuesday before the next Monday meeting to ensure placement on the agenda. In addition, the Commissioner would indicate the time allotted for the report. The Chair will communicate to the Executive Liaison on the topics that the Commission needs to focus.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

- 7. Matters not posted on the agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the Commission, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (14-4716)**

There were none.

Closing Remarks

- 8. Closing Remarks for the meeting of October 20, 2014 by Susan Friedman, Chair. (14-4725)**

Chair Friedman thanked the Commissioners for attending today's meeting and anticipate a positive direction "moving forward." She reminded the Commissioners that the next meeting will be held at First 5 LA, at 750 North Alameda, Multi-Purpose Room, Los Angeles on Monday, November 3, 2014 at 1:00 p.m.

Public Comment

- 9. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (14-4717)**

No members of the public addressed the Commission.

Adjournment

10. Adjournment of the meeting of October 20, 2014. (14-4718)

The meeting adjourned at 2:02 p.m.